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A LETTER

TO

THE HON. G. W. ROSS, LL.D.,

MINISTER OF EDUCATION,

WITH RESOLUTIONS AND LETTERS

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, THE FACULTY,

HEADS OF UNIVERSITIES, GRADUATES, &C.,

IN APPROVAL OF

COLLEGE RESIDENCE.

BY

SIR DANIEL WILSON, LL.D., F.R.S.E.,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

Toronto:

ROWSELL & HUTCHISON, PRINTERS,

1890.

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COLLEGE RESIDENCE.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, TORONTO,
18TH MARCH, 1890.

To the Hon. G. W. Ross, LL.D., Minister of Education :

DEAR SIR :—

I beg leave to ask your careful perusal of the accompanying documents : including resolutions embodying the opinion of the Board of Trustees ; of the subscribers for the restoration of the Library ; and of Graduates who have not been themselves in Residence. I also submit to you letters addressed to me by parents of Students who have boarded in the College Residence ; and by Graduates who have themselves resided there, and are able to give their matured judgment on the influence of residence on student life. The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor are also strongly opposed to the idea of doing away with this important branch of the University.

1. A movement, I am led to believe, has been originated aiming at the abolition of the College Residence, for the purpose of converting the building into lecture rooms. It is greatly to be regretted that this question should be thus inopportunistically raised ; as it is calculated to interfere most injuriously with the appeal now being made to the friends of the University for contributions both for the restoration of the Library, and the erection of a new Convocation Hall.

2. The west wing, which includes the College Residence, happily escaped any injury in the late fire. The idea of its conversion into Lecture Rooms may be dismissed at once. The building, designed originally for its present purpose, is arranged in three stories, altogether too low in the ceiling

for lecture rooms. To apply the building to the latter purpose it would have to be arranged in two stories, thereby involving the removal of the present floors fire-places, &c.; and the building up of the windows, and opening out others. In addition to this, a wall runs up through the whole length of the building, on which the two inclines of the roof rest. The removal of this wall is indispensable for any plan of reconstruction for lecture rooms, and would necessarily involve the renewal of the roof. Hence the report of the University architect, when the same proposal was made in 1887, was that it would cost less to pull the whole down, and build anew. But such a procedure involves the sacrifice of all the money expended in the erection of a residence, without any equivalent advantage.

3. It is proposed, in the reconstruction of the University Buildings to appropriate the old Convocation Hall for the Library; as it has been long found inadequate for a Convocation and Examination Hall. The Museum is to be accommodated in the addition now in progress, at the Biological building; and a special fund is being raised by public subscription, for a new Convocation Hall, with Senate Chamber, Registrar's Office, &c. Thus a large amount of space in the main building will be available for providing the necessary Lecture Rooms and other accommodation, such as experience shows to be required for present and future wants. As, owing to the results of the late fire, the main portion of the interior of the University Building will be at the disposal of the architect for all needful requirements, without the removal of floors, or partition-walls, it would be a most superfluous and wasteful procedure to destroy the Residence-wing of the building.

4. On this important question of the desirableness of retaining the present Residence building for the purpose originally aimed at in its construction, I beg leave to offer the following statements: Speaking from my own observation and experience of the working of the College Residence as a part of our University system, I feel confident that it is beneficial, both intellectually and morally, to an important class of students whose parents do

not reside in Toronto, and some of whom would not be sent to the University if such lodging and oversight were not available. It is true, and very much to be regretted, that the number who can be so accommodated is small compared with the whole body of students. If the Residence could be enlarged to three or four times the extent of the present accommodation, it would enable us to reduce the cost to each student, as well as to cope more effectually with our rapidly increasing numbers. A separate Residence for lady students is also much to be desired. You will see from some of the following letters from former students how important is the influence which the senior students exercise both morally and intellectually over their companions of the junior years. In considering this question in all its aspects it is well to bear in remembrance that students are not the class of boarders most in request. Families willing to receive such naturally give the preference to bank clerks, assistants in stores, and others who may be counted on as permanent lodgers; rather than to students who are only in the city from October to May.

5. An idea seems to exist that some exclusive system of admission to the Residence prevails. This is wholly unfounded. The charges are kept as low as possible, consistent with making it self-sustaining; and, could be further reduced if (and I trust, sooner or later, some wise benefactor will furnish the means;) the residence were enlarged. The present cost to a student in residence is, on an average, \$18 per month. As he pays for certain items, such as fuel and light, according to the quantities actually used, part of the charges are variable. For board and lodging, with a single room, the charge is \$16.50 per month. On those terms any student is admitted. The first applicant will obtain any vacant room. The only element ever allowed to influence any discrimination as to admission is, that a preference is given to winners of scholarships and prizes, or to other students who have given special proof of diligence and ability.

6. But, in considering the numbers provided for in the present College Residence, it is an error to contrast this with the whole large number of students. The system of affiliated

Colleges is an important feature in the organization of the Provincial University; and one which is destined in the future to assume greater proportions. At present a large number of the students are accommodated in the College Residences attached to Knox, Wycliffe, and St. Michael's Colleges; the plans for the new buildings for Victoria College include similar provisions for residence; and the ample provisions for the same purpose, both in Trinity College, and in MacMaster Hall, show the unanimity of opinion on this subject. In truth, no thoughtful and experienced educationist can advocate the turning adrift young men, at the critical stage of student life, to lodge where they please, free from all restraint and control.

7. The Scotch Universities have been appealed to as favouring non-residence, but this is a mistake. Sir William Muir, the present Principal of Edinburgh University, has, in successive annual addresses, urged the extreme desirableness of making provision for College Residences; and the late Professor James D. Forbes, on his promotion from the Chair of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh to the Principalship of St. Andrew's University, strenuously exerted himself to enlarge the students' residence there. From my own knowledge of Scottish Student life, I confidently affirm that the organization of adequate students' residences, under efficient superintendence, would have a most beneficial influence alike in promoting temperance and purity of life; and in fostering habits of diligent study. No system, not even that of home, with all its sacred influences, is an absolute safeguard against the temptations to which youth is exposed at this most critical period of life. But, imperfect as the best regulated College Residence must be, no parent can imagine that the cure for its defects is to be found in a hired lodging, among chance strangers, and emancipated from all restraint.

8. The statement has recently been made that no system of Residence exists in the American Universities. The system adopted there differs from ours, as from that of the English Universities; but at Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Cornell, and other

American Universities, there are Dormitories on a large scale, erected on the University grounds, and with an organized system of boarding. Benefactors have liberally contributed to their erection; and when, after the late American war the Graduates of Harvard University erected a memorial in memory of those of their number who had fallen in the war, it assumed the form of a Memorial Hall for the boarding of the resident students.

9. In the College Residence there is daily prayer, with reading of the Scriptures, morning and evening. From attendance on this daily service exemption is given on conscientious grounds, but on none other. No resident Student can remain out after a fixed hour in the evening without permission of the Dean; and no disorderly conduct is allowed within the Residence.

10. I sincerely trust that the reasons which I have thus advanced, based on the experience of many years, and confirmed by the approval of my colleagues, the hearty advocacy of parents whose sons have enjoyed the protecting care of the College Residence; and of graduates who now, in mature life, look back with grateful remembrance to the years spent under the sheltering guardianship of the College Home, will induce the Legislature not only to refrain from any action calculated to interfere with the successful working of this important branch of university organization; but may be the means of leading to the enlargement of the Residence, and its thorough equipment on a scale suited to the requirements of the University and the Province.

I have the honor to be, Dear Sir,

Your obedient servant,

DANIEL WILSON,
President.

THE FACULTIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

As members of the Faculties of the University of Toronto and University College, we unite in expressing our extreme regret at learning that a proposal has been made to abolish the College Residence.

We believe that the Residence is an important adjunct to the University; and that it should not only be maintained; but that it would be in the interest of the students if it could be greatly extended.

DANIEL WILSON, LL.D., *President*.
EDWARD J. CHAPMAN, LL.D., PH. D.
R. RAMSAY WRIGHT, M.A., B.Sc.
JAMES LOUDON, M.A.
MAURICE HUTTON, M.A.
WILLIAM H. PIKE, M.A., PH.D.
ALFRED BAKER, M.A.
WILLIAM H. ELLIS, M.A., M.B.
W. J. ALEXANDER, B.A., PH.D.
I. F. MCCURDY, PH.D.
W. H. VANDER SMISSSEN, M.A.
WILLIAM DALE, M.A.
W. J. LOUDON, B.A.
A. B. MACALLUM, B.A., PH.D., M.R.
DAVID R. KEYS, B.A.
HUGH H. LANGTON, B.A.
H. RUSHTON FAIRCLOUGH, M.A.
J. MCGOWAN, B.A.
G. A. H. FRASER, B.A.
G. CHAMBERS, B.A., M.B.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY.

The members of the Board of Trustees of the University of Toronto learn with much regret that a proposal has been made to abolish the College Residence.

The present is a most unseasonable time for raising such a question, as it is calculated seriously to impede the collecting of funds by private subscription for a new Convocation Hall.

From the information they have received they are strongly impressed with the conviction that the abolition of the College Residence would be an injury to the University.

EDWARD BLAKE.

WILLIAM MULLOCK.

DANIEL WILSON.

LARRAT W. SMITH.

C. S. GZOWSKI.

JOHN HOSKIN.

JAMES SCOTT.

E. B. OSLER.

WILLIAM CHRISTIE.

SUBSCRIBERS TO THE FUND FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY.

To the Honourable the Attorney-General and the Members of the Government of the Province of Ontario :

The undersigned are all contributors to the funds for the restoration of the University.

Immediately after the disastrous fire of the 14th of February it was announced that the buildings were to be restored.

Committees were at once formed to appeal to the Graduates and the public for aid in the work of restoration, and a large sum has already been subscribed to assist in the work.

When we were called upon for subscriptions, and gave them willingly, it was not represented to us that the work of restoration would involve abolishing the University Residence.

We learn with great regret that, although our subscriptions were given upon the faith of a restoration of the University Buildings to their original state, there is a movement on foot which has in contemplation the sweeping away of the Residence wing.

We beg to represent that, in our opinion, this would be most injurious to the best interests of the University, and to the work of securing further gifts, and would involve the withdrawal of many subscriptions already obtained.

We are confident that the proposed abolition of Residence is opposed to the wishes of the large majority of the Graduates of the University and to its friends, and we appeal to the past history of the College Residence in its support.

We are confident that it has promoted a true University sentiment, and sent out into the world its Residents as larger minded and better men than they otherwise would have become, and we most earnestly press upon the Government the desirability of amplifying and improving instead of destroying it.

It has never yet been managed for the purpose of making it yield a revenue, but it has been for some time paying its expenses, and has never at any time formed any considerable burden on the University funds. The experience of all such institutions has always been, that the larger they are (within, of course, due bounds), the more revenue they will yield, besides exercising to a greater degree that influence on the character of the students which is so beneficial to them, and through them to their country.

We believe that if effect be given to our views, and if a proper portion of the restoration fund be applied to the extension of Residence, private benefactions will be attracted which will make Residence a more marked feature of the University of Toronto than even it is at the present time.

- W. G. Falconbridge,
- Walter Barwick,
- A. R. Creelman,
- Z. A. Lash,
- A. R. Aylesworth,
- W. D. Gwynne,
- J. G. Scott,
- A. H. Marsh,
- Daniel Wilson,
- W. J. Alexander,
- R. Ramsay Wright,
- T. D. Delamere,
- W. H. Ellis,
- F. A. Drake,
- H. C. Hammond,
- W. J. Franks,
- W. H. Irving,
- C. R. Boulton,
- A. Elliott,
- Goodwin Gibson,
- Edmund B. Osler,
- E. R. C. Clarkson,
- William Creelman,
- Alfred Baker,
- D. A. O'Sullivan,
- Beardmore & Co.,
- William Dale,
- J. Loudon,
- W. A. Murray & Co.,
- John Kay, Son & Co.,

- J. Galbraith,
- John Hoskin,
- R. M. Wells,
- H. T. Canniff,
- H. W. Mickle,
- H. H. Dewart,
- G. G. S. Lindsay,
- ✓ N. W. Hoyles,
- Angus MacMurchy,
- J. A. Boyd,
- B. B. Osler,
- Andrew Smith, F.R.C., V.S.,
- Philip Jamieson,
- Eby, Blain & Co.,
- Maurice Hutton,
- W. F. Maclean,
- B. E. Walker,
- Kerr, Macdonald, Davidson & Patterson.
- W. H. P. Clement,
- Ernest F. Gunther,
- H. W. Nelson,
- John Martland,
- A. H. Young,
- Stephen B. Leacock,
- W. H. vanderSmitten,
- Dougald J. MacMurchy,
- W. Beattie Nesbitt, M.D.,
- J. H. Cameron,
- C. Egerton Ryerson,
- Louis B. Stewart,

N. Gordon Bigelow
 John T. Small,
 - George A. Cox,
 - Charles Moss,
 - Henry J. Wright,
 S. C. Smoke,
 - S. H. Blake,
 Douglas Armour,
 A. C. Galt,
 Thomas Langton,
 Charles Millar,
 W. T. Ashley,

H. R. Fairclough,
 H. H. Langton,
 - W. J. Loudon,
 - Joseph Blackstock,
 George Dickson,
 William Webb,
 J. E. Berkeley Smith,
 Fred. E. Manley,
 Theodore S. Covernnton,
 A. H. Wright,
 John J. Mackenzie,
 Charles Carpmael.

GRADUATES OF THE UNIVERSITY.

To the Honorable the Attorney-General and the Members of the Government of the Province of Ontario.

YOUR PETITIONERS have heard with alarm, that it is proposed to take the retrograde step of abolishing the Residence connected with University College, and we beg respectfully to represent that, in our opinion, this would be most injurious to the best interests of University education.

The system by which undergraduates are required or enabled to live in the College Residence, and subject to more or less supervision, is the one which has been adopted in all the more important English and American Universities, as well as by the great majority of denominational Colleges in Canada. None of these entertain any idea of a change, and their long experience has, we do not hesitate to say, demonstrated that that system is by far the most valuable factor in the educating of students in the true sense of the word. The hourly intercourse which they thus obtain with their fellow students, not merely in the prescribed studies—but in all their other pursuits and even amusements, shews them as nothing else can, wherein their own strength and weakness consist, and by developing the one and correcting the other, imperceptibly build them up at an age, when it is not too late to mould character, into liberal-minded men and useful citizens.

WE ARE CONFIDENT that none who have experienced or who really appreciate the benefit of a College Residence can do otherwise than feel as we do, dismay at hearing that its destruction is seriously contemplated. That this has been proposed, makes it apparent that some difference of opinion must exist on the subject (as was recently shewn to be the case in regard to the very similar question of the maintenance of a large residential public school); but that a difference of opinion exists, is all that can be said. Any preponderance of opinion is most assuredly on the side of the maintenance of an efficient residence for the accommodation of the sons of those who stand by undenominational secular education. No public demand for any different system has ever been made, to justify the extinction of the present Residence. The proposed change can only be regarded as an experiment, which, even though unsuccessful, would make the return to the residential system—for financial reasons—probably impossible.

AGAIN, EVERY BELIEVER in undenominational secular education will, in fully considering the subject, see that with the abolition of the Residence, would go almost the only remaining visible proof of the existence of University College. We believe that most parents—not residing in Toronto—would prefer entering their sons at a denominational College possessing a Residence, to turning them adrift.

into the temptations of City life, without any restraint from their College beyond the walls of the Lecture Room; but if students should not thus gradually distribute themselves among the various denominational College Residences, University College, as a part of our undenominational system of education, can only have a paper existence as a roll of students, almost strangers to one another, meeting only in the Lecture Room, and with scarcely a bond of any kind to unite them.

WE BELIEVE also in the desirability of fostering in all possible ways, public spirit and *esprit de corps*, as tending to advance truly national aspirations: but if reasons of the kind be not deemed of weight there are others of a more evidently practical character. The proposed alterations, we are informed, are for the purpose of furnishing necessary accommodation for the University Professors in the Departments of Science, who require Laboratories or rooms for experiments. We are assured, however, that the present Residence either cannot be altered so as to provide the required kind of accommodation, or can only be so altered at a cost of a sum sufficient to erect both new buildings for suitable Laboratories, etc., and also to considerably enlarge and improve the College Residence.

We are confident that the proposed abolition of the Residence, it opposed to the wishes of the large majority of the graduates of the University throughout the Province, and we appeal to the past history of the College Residence in its support. We are confident that it has promoted a true University sentiment and sent out into the world its residents as larger minded and better men than they otherwise would have become, and we most earnestly press upon the Government the desirability of amplifying and improving instead of destroying it.

It has never yet been managed for the purpose of making it yield a revenue, but it has been for sometime paying its expenses, and has never at any time formed any considerable burden on the University funds. The experience of all such institutions has always been that the larger they are (within of course due bounds) the more revenue they will yield, besides exercising to a greater degree, that influence on the character of the students, which is so beneficial to them, and through them to their country.

A. J. Cattanach, M.A.
T. D. Delamere, M.A.
A. H. Marsh, B.A., LL.B.
R. E. Kingsford, M.A., LL.B.
Walter Barwick, M.A.
A. B. Aylesworth, M.A.
Edward J. Bristol, B.A.
J. H. M. Campbell, M.A.
A. E. O'Meara, B.A.
Thomas Langton, M.A., LL.B.
W. H. C. Kerr, M.A.
J. F. Smith, LL.B.
C. Egerton Ryerson, B.A.
W. H. Ellis, M.A.
John Boyd, M.A.
R. Zimmerman, M.D.
G. A. Radenhurst, M.A.
J. L. G. McCarthy, M.B.
Wm. Boys, LL.B.
Hamilton D. Stewart, LL.B.
H. B. Spotton, M.A.
G. M. Wells, M.B.
Richard Snelling, LL.D.
F. A. Drake, B.A.

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G. G. S. Lindsey, B.A.
A. G. F. Lawrence, B.A.
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W. G. Eakins, M.A.
Henry J. Wright, B.A.
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W. H. Clement, M.A., LL.B.
Ernest F. Gunther, B.A.
M. S. Mercer, B.A.
H. W. Mickle, B.A.
N. G. W. Master, 322 East 15th St., N. Y.
City.
W. Allaire Shortt, M.A.
John Muir, M.A., LL.B., Hamilton.
W. Fred Walker, M.A., LL.B., "
H. S. Brennan, M.A., "
James White, M.A., M.D., "
Algernon Woolverton, M.A., M.D., "
I. B. McQuesten, M.A., "
Jas. Chisholm, B.A., "

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 Edward Bayley, B.A.
 J. H. Thom, M.A.
 John T. Small, M.A.
 W. G. McWilliams, B.A.
 H. J. Scott (per W. B.), B.A.
 P. C. Constantinides, M.D., M.R.C.S.
 J. H. Cameron, M.B.
 A. H. Wright, M.B.
 W. H. B. Aikins, M.B.
 S. G. Wood, LL.B.
 Clarkson Jones, M.A.
 Hector Cameron, M.A.
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 C. R. W. Biggar, M.A.
 Nicol Kingsmill, (per A.J.C.) M.A.
 T. H. Bull, B.A.
 H. T. Machell, M.B.
 A. D. Passmore, B.A., Windsor.
 Ernest S. Wigle, B.A., "
 J. C. Stuart, B.A., "
 T. E. Ewen, M.A.
 Geo. S. Wright, M.A.
 J. J. Baker, M.A.
 W. N. Ponton, M.A.
 F. E. O'Flynn, B.A.
 John Armstrong, B.A., Barrister at Law,
 Owen Sound.
 L. H. Alexander, M.A., Collegiate Insti-
 tute, Owen Sound.
 Charles E. Barnhart, M.B., Owen Sound.
 John Somerville, M.A., "
 John A. Creason, B.A., "
 Alfred D. Creason, B.A., "
 C. J. Macgregor, M.A.
 M. C. Moderwell, B.A.
 John Idington, LL.B.
 John A. Davidson, B.A.
 J. A. Culham, M.A., Hamilton.
 Harry B. Whitton, B.A., "
 Charles Miller, B.A., "
 J. Irving Poole, B.A.
 Fred. W. D. Hill, B.A.
 A. D. Crooks, B.A.
 W. W. Baldwin, B.A.
 D. J. G. Wishart, B.A., M.D.
 John Kyles, B.A.
 Robert Baldwin, B.A.
 G. R. Mickle, B.A.
 Alfred Buell Cameron, B.A.
 Colin G. Campbell, B.A.
 A. H. Campbell, jr., B.A.
 C. R. Boulton, B.A.
 T. C. Milligan, B.A.
 J. H. Burns, M.B.
 H. B. Bruce, B.A.
 R. K. Spraul, B.A.
 W. B. Willoughby, B.A.
 G. S. Wilgress, B.A.
 F. N. Kerrison, B.A.
 A. MacNab, M.A.
 G. W. Evans, B.A.
 W. D. Gwynne, B.A.
 W. H. Hunter, B.A.
 R. J. Duff, B.A.
 T. G. Blackstock, B.A.
 Dugald J. MacMurchy, B.A.
 A. C. Galt, B.A.
 H. T. Beck, M.A.
 J. H. Morris, M.A.
 Arthur Stevenson, B.A.
 W. C. Widdifield, B.A.
 J. E. Dickson, B.A.
 Thomas J. Robertson, B.A.
 W. H. Bentley, M.B.
 R. M. Coulter, M.B.
 J. E. Eakins, M.B.
 Samuel J. Bull, B.A.
 Colin Fraser, B.A.
 Francis James Roche, M.A.
 Henry E. Morphy, B.A.
 Fred F. Manley, M.A.
 John J. Wash, B.A.
 William Hemes Oliphant, M.B.
 J. H. McGeary, M.A.
 W. Barclay McMurrich, M.A.
 R. A. McArthur, B.A.
 H. E. Buchan, M.A., M.D.
 F. W. Cane, M.B.
 T. F. McMahon, M.B.
 W. McBrady, B.A.
 J. G. Holmes, B.A.
 *Charles McLellan, M.B., 1872.
 *Stephen J. Young, B.A., 1881.
 T. A. O'Rourke, B.A., 1878.
 Arch. Abbott, B.A., 1887.

Goodwin Gibson, M.A.
H. L. Dunn, B.A., Windsor.

J. W. Delaney, B.A., 1879.
D. C. Little, B.A., 1887.

The subscribers are of opinion that the greatest good in the direction of Residence can only obtain when sufficient accommodation for all students shall have been provided.

- Alfred M. Lafferty, M.A.
Geo. B. Douglas, B.A.
John Coutts, B.A.
J. B. Rankin, B.A.
C. J. O'Neill, LL.B.
D. S. Skinner, B.A.
W. J. J. Twohey, M.A.
W. G. P. Cassels, B.A.
W. G. Falconbridge, M.A.
J. H. Bowes, B.A.
Wm. Davidson, B.A.
W. Macdonald, M.A.
John A. Paterson, M.A.
John Kerr Fiskin, B.A.
W. A. Foster, LL.B.
J. Albert Page, B.A.
J. B. Clarke, LL.B.
T. C. L. Armstrong, M.A., LL.B.
Marcellus Crombie, M.A., LL.B.
R. McGee, B.A.
A. G. Smith, B.A.
John S. MacLean.
A. F. May, B.A.
A. B. Hudson, B.A.
W. E. Hodgins, M.A.
J. MacMillan, B.A.
C. J. Hardie, B.A.
E. B. Kenrick, B.A.
W. H. Walker, B.A.
Arundale C. Hill, B.A., 1867, M.A., 1868.
James H. Coyne, B.A., 1870.
Horace Harvey, B.A., 1886.
Noah Quance, B.A., 1881.
A. F. Ames, B.A., 1882.
W. B. Doherty, LL.B., 1880.
E. P. Crawford, M.A., Brockville.
J. T. Fotheringham, B.A.
A. W. Burt, B.A.
J. M. McWhinney, B.A.
D. O. Cameron, B.A.
J. M. Palmer, B.A., LL.B.
A. F. Lobb, B.A.
R. C. Donald, B.A.
H. T. Canniff, B.A.
W. W. Vickers, B.A.
W. H. Irving, B.A.
S. C. Smoke, B.A.
W. A. Standish, LL.B.
A. E. K. Grier, B.A.
Edward B. Browne, B.A.
Angus MacMurchy, B.A.
- J. F. Grierson, B.A.
D. S. Hoig, M.B.
A. Henderson, B.A.
Lyman English, LL.B.
James Rutledge, B.A.
D. Ormeston, B.A.
John E. Farewell, LL.B.
John Hampton Burnham, M.A.
T. Arnold Haultain, B.A.
J. H. Long, M.A., LL.B.
W. Fitzgerald, M.A.
T. C. Boville, B.A.
J. H. Balderson, B.A.
J. H. Reid, B.A.
J. Fletcher Cross, LL.B.
F. Nelson, B.A.
Mc. L. Stewart, M.A.
J. Beaufort Hurlbert, LL.B.
W. E. Thompson, B.A.
A. J. Forward, B.A.
Herbert Collin, B.A.
John Henderson, M.A.
Lucius S. Oille, M.A.
J. P. Armour, M.B.
Andrew Murdock, M.A., LL.B.
J. W. Morrice, B.A.
James Gray, M.A.
J. J. Kingsmill, B.A.
J. Morgan, M.A.
George H. Kilmer, B.A.
A. Collins, B.A.
W. F. Freeman, M.B.
M. Stalker, M.B.
W. A. Frost, M.A.
J. N. Marshall, B.A. (Tor.) Brockville.
Albert A. Macdonald, M.B., Toronto.
A. A. Adams, B.A., Toronto.
H. M. Deroche, B.A., Napanee.
J. H. Madden, B.A.,
" LL.B.,
" " "
J. A. Preston, B.A.,
G. H. Cowan, M.B.,
S. A. Henderson, B.A.
A. B. Welford, M.B.
A. A. Cameron, B.A.
J. O. Garvin, B.A.
T. W. Taylor, M.A.
A. C. Killam, B.A.
George Patterson, M.A.
T. H. Gilmour, B.A.
J. A. M. Aikens, M.A.

Charles B. Jackes, B.A.
 Theodore S. Covernton, M.D.
 T. McKenzie, M.A., M.B.
 Frank T. Shutt, M.A.
 Colin G. Snider, B.A.
 K. H. L. Cameron, M.D.
 J. F. Brown, B.A.
 James H. Richardson, M.D.
 James Smith, B.A.
 James Thorburn, M.D.
 Thomas Hodgins, M.A.
 H. Yale, B.A.
 J. P. Campbell, M.A.
 John McKeown, M.A.
 R. G. Macdonald, B.A.
 Robert Balmer, B.A.

Horace E. Crawford, B.A.
 W. R. Mulock, B.A.
 A. E. Richards, M.A.
 Hugh J. Macdonald, B.A.
 Ghent. Davis, B.A.
 Fred. N. Wade, B.A.
 J. D. Cameron, B.A.
 W. E. Perdue, B.A.
 Herbert Archibald, B.A.
 S. C. Boys, B.A.
 Henry Mason, B.A.
 Richard B. Cummings, B.A., M.D.
 W. Cook, B.A.
 Edward H. Smythe, LL.D.

LETTERS.

SIR WILLIAM MUIR, K.C.S.I.

Principal of the University of Edinburgh.

4th October, 1887.

MY DEAR SIR.—So far as this University is concerned, you cannot speak too strongly of the want felt of suitable places of Residence for the students. Efforts are on foot to set up College Houses or Hostels, for students from a distance, but without endowment or State aid, it is an up-hill attempt, and after all a poor substitute for what (as I understand) you already have. It would be a retrograde step, indeed, to give this up. I will send you two addresses in which the subject is mentioned, and I purpose alluding further to the subject in the address which I am to give in a few weeks at the opening of the Winter Session.

I am yours sincerely,

DANIEL WILSON, LL.D.,
President University College, Toronto.

W. MUIR.

SIR WILLIAM DAWSON, C.M.G., LL.D.,
Principal McGill University, Montreal.

MONTREAL, September 12th, 1887.

DEAR DR WILSON,—It is quite true that we have at present no College Residence for Students in McGill, and though I have on several occasions brought this matter under the notice of our friends no pecuniary aid for the purpose has yet been forthcoming. Within the last two years I have thought it best to restrict my demand to a College Dining Hall, as I find it is easier for students to obtain lodgings than board; but so far I have been unable to obtain the necessary means even for this. I am, however, not without hope of succeeding.

I may add that some relief is given to us by the fact that our four affiliated Theological Colleges, give board and lodging to most of their students, and thus provide for those Arts men who are also taking theological lectures.

It has been proposed to convert the east wing of our buildings into a Residence for students, but it is not well suited to the purpose, and I should prefer a separate building of more modern construction.

I remain yours sincerely,

J. WM. DAWSON.

THE LATE REV. CANON O'MEARA, D.D.

Rector of Port Hope.

THE RECTORY, PORT HOPE, June 22nd, 1887.

MY DEAR DR. WILSON:—I received your note yesterday, and hasten to reply. I am sorry to hear that there is any movement on foot for the abolition of residence at University College. Three of my sons have, I can testify, been partakers of the benefits imparted by the privileges afforded by residence at the College, and the fourth has all through his course at Wycliffe College been greatly benefited by similar privileges afforded him there. I should, therefore, rather have looked for a proposal to largely extend those benefits than, as appears from your letter, to abridge or abolish them. I think the parents of most young men who have been residents would agree with me in this respect. The accommodations to be had at lodging houses in the city are very inferior to those which the College has furnished at a much less expense; and the difficulty of close application to study in such lodging houses would, I hold, be a very considerable obstacle to a young man completing a successful course. My own College experience does not bear on the question, as, during the whole of my course at Trinity College, Dublin, I continued to reside with my mother in the city. But, from my experience with reference to my sons, I would hold up both my hands for the continuance, and even for the extension, of Residence. I therefore sincerely trust that you will be successful in your opposition to any reversal of the long-continued practice in this particular.

I remain, my dear Dr. Wilson,

Yours very truly,

FRED'K A. O'MEARA.

DANIEL WILSON, Esq., LL.D.

REV. E. P. CRAWFORD, M.A.,

Rector of Church of the Ascension, Hamilton.

BROCKVILLE, June 22nd, 1887.

MY DEAR DR. WILSON.—I have, by no means, lost my interest in Alma Mater, but my interest is rather reviving, inasmuch as some of my spiritual sons are now attending the University.

I believe it would be most disastrous to the interest and welfare of the students attending the College from a distance to abolish the Residence. The wholesome restraints, and disciplinary influences, much more effectual now, I believe, than when I lived there, are very essential to the moral well-being of the youths who go up from town and country Schools, and more than that the Residence has really the strongest influence in the cultivation and preservation of that 'esprit de corps' so necessary in every public institution. In fact I look upon the Residence as the centre of the real College life, and I would solemnly protest against its extinction.

You are welcome to use this letter in any way you like, and also to command my influence and help in the cause in any way in which I can be useful.

I am, my dear Dr. Wilson,

Ever faithfully yours,

DR. WILSON,

E. P. CRAWFORD.

President University College,

J. H. LONG, Esq., M.A., LL.B.

Principal of the Collegiate Institute, Peterborough.

PETERBOROUGH, June 24th, 1887.

DANIEL WILSON, Esq., LL.D., President University College, Toronto :

DEAR SIR,—I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd June, in reference to the value of a Residence in connection with University College.

In answer to your question, I would say that in my opinion a Residence properly managed, is of great benefit. In fact, I consider a Residence an indispensable part of a real College.

I remain, dear Sir, respectfully yours,

J. H. LONG.

W. DALE, Esq., M. A.

Lecturer in Latin, University College.

ST. MARY'S, 25th June, 1887.

MY DEAR DR. WILSON,—During my undergraduate course I was a Resident in the College, as the Residence at that time afforded advantages both in respect of study and intercourse among students not otherwise obtainable.

The Resident students were under the charge and oversight of the Dean. No student could be outside the gates after 9.30 p.m. without special knowledge and consent of the Dean, and every student was expected to attend at least once every Sunday his own place of worship. With respect to attendance on Lectures, the students were under the ordinary discipline of College authorities.

The intellectual influences were certainly good and in conjunction with other influences, stimulated to study and emulation.

Yours most truly,

WILLIAM DALE.

WALTER BARWICK, Esq., M.A.

Barrister.

TORONTO, July 12th, 1887.

MY DEAR DOCTOR WILSON.—I lived in the College Residence for four years as an undergraduate, and I continued to reside there after I had taken my Degree.

I look back now upon the years spent there as the happiest years of my life. I do not use the expression in any meaningless way, but from the bottom of my heart I mean this.

As I write I think with pride of the friendships I made with hundreds of men who either lived in Residence, or who made it a rallying place during the time I was there.

I spent my undergraduate course under the wise rule of Loudon, and learned from him how a lot of boys, fresh from the restraints of the school room, and eager to be men could be ruled and guided, without the master being called on to make display of any authority.

One great advantage I gained in Residence was the opportunity of making friendships at a time of life when lasting friendships are made. There are few towns in Ontario where I have not a friend made while I lived in Residence. This perhaps sounds far fetched. It is not. I know that my room was always a rallying place for three or four—perhaps more—outsiders, good hard-working students, who identified themselves with Residence; and each other room in the place had its adherents.

I know that during my time—and since, too, for that matter—Residence men were foremost in everything appertaining to University matters. In the Literary Society, in the Modern Language Society, upon Conversazione Committees, Game Committees, Foot Ball, and Cricket Clubs, they usually took the initiative, and when I remember the honors many of my old friends gained in the Examination Hall, I can safely say the Residence men were foremost in the van when the class lists were posted in the Entrance Hall.

A custom existed in my time (and I learn upon enquiry that it still exists), which made Residence attractive for reading men. This was, a man was never as a rule disturbed if he were known to be reading there. There might be a protesting kick on the panel of the door, but there it ended, and this custom led men to remain in Residence after taking their degrees, if they intended to enter upon the study of one of the Professions. It was this which induced me to remain in Residence after taking my degree.

My experience of Residence leads me to believe that life there is an advantage to men intellectually and morally; there they meet their fellows in daily life; their intercourse is not confined to the class room, their habits are subject to keen criticism; and they are subject to a control which cannot be exercised on men scattered in isolated boarding houses throughout the city; the tendency of life there is to *make men*.

I look upon any attempt to abolish Residence as a blow at the most important element in University College training, and I know that men who have spent years there, as I did, will agree in all that I have written above.

I am, Sir, yours very sincerely,

WALTER BARWICK.

W. G. EAKINS, Esq., M.A.,

Editor of the Mail.

TORONTO, July 19th, 1887.

DR. DANIEL WILSON, President of University College, Toronto:

DEAR SIR—My opinion, based upon my own experience, of the value of University College Residence, both intellectually and morally, may be learned from the fact that my advice to all young men about to take the College course, whom I may know, has always been to live in Residence if possible. Almost eleven years have elapsed since I left the institution, and I have never yet had any reason to change the opinion formed during my stay there, that Residence life is a most valuable factor in the education of the University student. On the contrary, I have become strengthened in that belief as I have grown older, and as my ideas have become matured.

My whole University life was spent in Residence. I graduated in 1876, and since then, with the exception of about three years, I have lived in the city, and have always been intimately acquainted with some of the residents—both graduates and undergraduates.

I consider my father's action in placing me in Residence after my matriculation as one of the best things he ever did for me, and I have never ceased to congratulate myself upon the fact that I was not sent to a boarding-house in the

city. I have reason to believe that had the latter course been taken, my University career and my subsequent life would have been very different.

The following are some of the reasons, briefly stated, for my high opinion of the value of Residence :

1. I found myself at once intimately associated with a number of experienced students, whose example and advice were of the greatest value to me. I learned, even without asking, how to use my time to the best advantage ; and the daily intercourse between my fellow-students and myself, being largely on the subject of our studies, was often of as much value to me as the guidance of a tutor would have been. Had I lived elsewhere I would have received the benefit of the experience of others only in stray hours between lectures.

2. The mere fact of the University building being my home was in itself a great convenience. If an hour intervened between lectures, I could at once repair to my room and use the same to advantage. At examination times especially was this convenience felt.

3. I became almost immediately interested in the various College societies and sports, and my interest was ever stimulated and fostered by constant association with many of the leaders in them. The non-resident, of course, takes part in these affairs, but, unless he be predisposed to do so, it is often a year or so before he becomes fully identified with them.

4. It seldom happens that some of the students at least in Residence are not at work at their studies, and the first or second year student who may be tempted to idle away his time is thus strengthened against the temptation. The student living in a boarding house, on the other hand, is often led to cast aside his books when he finds that all the other inmates of the house are amusing themselves.

5. Residence helps to strengthen the character. The freshman is thrown into contact with men of all years and is largely influenced by his seniors whose characters have been similarly developed in the past. The net results of that influence are very largely good. The non-resident, as a rule, mingles chiefly with the men of his own year only.

6. Residence makes a man of the boy. It is a world of itself in which the boy, fresh from school, has to fight his way. He becomes self-reliant without being self-opinionated. Constant touch with his fellows rubs off his rough corners and he receives a certain polish of mind as well as of manner. He learns to think and act for himself, being at the same time restrained by consideration for his companions. The latter are ever-present examples to him. He cannot avoid seeing the failings of some, the good qualities of others, and he learns many a lesson that would not otherwise be brought home to him until he had gone out into the world. The non-resident, as a rule, misses the experience and his character is left to mould itself.

7. The student in Residence forms lasting friendships among those with whom he spends his years there. I cannot sufficiently emphasize my appreciation of the importance of this fact. My dearest and most valued friends are those that I made there and those to whom I there became attached. Of all that I acquired at the University I value nothing more highly than their friendship. Many of them are young men who have already achieved unusual success, and many of them, I feel confident, will yet be prominent in their several walks in life. If my course at the University had brought me nothing more than such friendship, it would well have repaid me the time spent upon it. Had I been a non-resident I am confident that no such bond of affection would have been created between myself and my fellow students.

8. The intellectual influence upon my life in Residence may be gathered from the foregoing remarks. I may say, however, that in my time, Residence men always took even more than their share of the honours in comparison with their numbers. A hasty glance at the records shew me that the men who lived in

Residence during any portion of the four years that I was there carried off twenty-four medals. I may be pardoned mentioning, as further proof, that I took four scholarships and a medal after matriculation. Some of my contemporaries in Residence did better still.

9. The morals of students in residence are quite as good at least as those of non-resident students as a whole, so far as I know the habits of the latter. They are better than those of one class of the latter. The class lists afford one proof of this; the fact that former residence men send their sons there another. If I thought that any boy of my acquaintance would be exposed in Residence to any greater temptation than in a boarding-house, I would never think of advising that he should be sent to the former. In fact, I believe that there is far more danger in life in a boarding-house, free from all restraint, than in Residence.

10. Life in residence especially fosters *esprit de corps* and love for *Alma Mater*. I need not tell you, Sir, nor any one else who has had an opportunity of testing the strength of such sentiments, what their practical value to the College is. Anything that tends to strengthen the tie between the College and its students, between the University and its *alumni*, is of inestimable value, especially at a time when the rivals of these institutions are becoming more and more vigorous; and nothing that I know of is better calculated to do so than home life within the walls of the old building. I do not know an old residence man, no matter how far back his degree may date, who would not feel as if a very important link in the chain of his connection with the University and College had been broken if the Residence were abolished, and whose interest in the two institutions would not be by so much diminished. It has always been a cherished hope of mine, and, I believe, of many University men, that at some day the Residence would be so enlarged as to admit a far greater number of students. Such a step would be a grand thing for University College.

I have given you, hastily and imperfectly, a few of the reasons for my high opinion of the value of Residence, and I am only sorry that I have had neither the time nor the command of language sufficient to express sentiments more clearly and more strongly.

I can only assure you, in conclusion, that I am not alone among the graduates in the belief that the abolition of Residence would be a calamity, the effect of which University College would feel for many years to come.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

W. G. EAKINS,

REV. CANON JAMES O'MEARA, M.A.

Dean of St. John's College, Winnipeg.

THE LODGE, ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE,

WINNIPEG, July, 19, 1887.

DANIEL WILSON, Esq., LL.D., President, University College, Toronto :

MY DEAR DR. WILSON—I am to-day in receipt of your favor of July 13th, and hasten to reply. You are good enough to ask me my opinion as to the wisdom of doing away with the Residence. Let me frankly say that I can imagine no step more fatal to the truest interests of the University, or more utterly subversive of the objects which the University seeks to attain than the contemplated step to which you refer, I base the strong opinion which I hold on this subject on two grounds, viz. : on my own remembrance of the value of residence to myself when a student, and the experience gained in my position as Deputy Warden of St. John's College. If the value of a University education is to be measured by the standard of the definite number of facts crammed into one during the four years of

one's course, then perhaps Residence might safely be done away with, but if the value of a University course lies largely in the mental discipline, the culture, the preparation for life obtainable from continual contact with one's fellow students (and such I know to be the case), then full half the benefit of a University training is lost by breaking them up into the little groups that gather in isolated boarding houses, instead of allowing them to form that nucleus of University life in all its best development, which a well managed Residence will furnish. I know that more than half the benefit received by me at the University of Toronto, arose from the moral and intellectual discipline of my former life in Residence. I have always regretted that the Residence at Toronto was not larger and more worthy of the Alma Mater of whom all her children are so justly proud. My experience in training young men here has confirmed in me the views I have mentioned above. I have had men come to me raw, uncouth, uninformed, utterly unprepared to go out into life and do credit to themselves, or their college. And I have watched the influences of college life, and by college life I mean *Residence* life, I have watched these influences moulding them, and maturing them till they have gone forth from us with the promise of success upon them. And I am sure that only half this result was accomplished by the work of myself or my colleagues. It is true with lax or careless discipline Residences may become a centre of dangerous influence, but surely the remedy for this is not to abandon the Residence, but to strengthen the discipline. In my time I know there was a thoroughly manly and moral tone in the building, and I have no reason to believe that any other condition prevails at present. I do sincerely hope the Minister of Education, who I am convinced is deeply anxious to do his best for the truest interests of education, may hesitate a long while before he takes away a part of the University which has gathered round it the kindly memories of so many of our Graduates.

With kindest regards,

I remain, sincerely yours,

J. D. O'MEARA,

Dep. Warden and Vice-Chancellor of St. John's College.

A. H. MARSH, Esq., M. A., LL.B.

Barrister.

TORONTO, 20th July, 1887.

MY DEAR DOCTOR WILSON.

I received your note asking me to state my opinion, based upon my own experience, of the value of the Residence both intellectually and morally.

It is with the deepest regret that I have heard of the proposal to abolish the residence in connection with University College.

During the whole of my undergraduate course I lived in Residence, and I can express my opinion of Residence in no more practical way than by saying that if I had a son old enough to go to the University, he should most certainly be sent into Residence, and if there was no Residence to receive him at University College, he should go to some other College that had one.

A great mistake is not infrequently made by University men, as well as others, in supposing that an education fitted to supply the needs of a University graduate can be obtained from books and lectures alone. I am far from meaning to imply that living in Residence will wholly supply the indefinite and almost indescribable something which books and lectures are unable to furnish, but I do say that, all other things being equal, I think there can be no doubt that the University man who lives in Residence during his undergraduate course, will be better equipped in this respect than the man who spends his years floating from boarding-house to boarding-house throughout the city. There is an influence in Residence which

tends to knock off a man's angles and smooth down his rough corners, and to make polished men out of material which was originally "rough, raw, and democratic." It is perfectly true that many men live in Residence, and take their degrees, and and remain yahoos at the end, while many other graduates, who are polished and scholarly gentlemen, have never had the advantage of living in Residence, but all other things being equal, the chances are in favor of the Residence men.

There is another feature which, in my opinion, is of great importance. An English Jurist, speaking of the impersonality of corporations, reminds us that they "Have neither bodies to be kicked nor souls to be damned," and it may be added that they can be made so impersonal that there will be very little about them to be loved. There is great danger that University College may be placed in this latter position. Even though a man may be of an enthusiastic temperament, yet he ordinarily requires that upon which he places his affections to be definite and tangible. I will venture to say that with the majority of Residence men the Residence has been the definite tangible thing which has in their mind been made to stand for University College. It may be said that this is all sentimentalism, but sentiment is a great motive power in this world, and when University College comes into competition with other Colleges whose friends are animated by sectarian enthusiasm, she will find that sentimentalism among her friends is a thing much to be desired.

I have scarcely patience to deal with the moral aspect of the question. The enemies of Residence appears to forget that Residence is neither a Sunday School nor a Young Ladies Seminary, but that it is a place where men are made. I have seen not a few cases where Residence Students have wrecked themselves and have gone to the bad, but the fault was in the material, not in the Residence; they would have ended the same no matter where they went. I wonder if the slanderers of Residence have ever seriously thought over the ennobling, chastening, and restraining influences of a down-town boarding-house, for let them remember that that is the only substitute they have to offer for Residence.

When human nature has become entirely changed, and all evil passions have died out, and envy and malice and hatred have become things of the past, we may hope to have a Residence with the aesthetic code of morals which some gentlemen would now prescribe for the existing Residence; but in the meantime we had better deal in business-like way with human nature as we find it.

Respectfully yours,

A. H. MARSH.

JAMES H. COYNE, Esq., B.A.

County Registrar, St. Thomas.

ST. THOMAS, July 22, 1887.

DANIEL WILSON, Esq., LL.D., *President of University College, Toronto:*

DEAR SIR,—Your letter, in which you ask me to state my opinion, based on my own experience, of the value of the University College Residence, intellectually and morally, is to hand, and I hasten to comply with the request.

My experience, as a student at Toronto, was about equally divided between the Residence and private boarding houses. Of my University course, I passed the first year in a private boarding house, and the last three years in Residence. Afterwards, as a student at law, I boarded for two years at a private house. In expressing an opinion on the subject, therefore, I am guided by the facts of my own experience and observation.

It was the almost universal feeling among College students of my time, that better work could be done in Residence than outside. The following statistics of University distinctions won by Residents and Non-residents respectively amongst the men of my own year would seem to bear out that opinion.

In the second year, of the five scholarships awarded, three were taken by Residents, and two by Non-residents. One of the latter, who won the Classical Scholarship, was the son of a Toronto clergyman of high classical attainments, and therefore possessed special advantages in his chosen department over his competitors.

In our third year, the five Scholarships were all carried off by Residents. One of them having taken a double Scholarship was entitled under the statutes to only one-third of the value of the second Scholarship, and the remainder went to a Non-resident. Besides the above honours, the German Essay Prize went to a Resident, and the Greek Verse Prize to the clergyman's son above mentioned.

In our last year, the Prince of Wales Prize, all the Gold Medals, (five in number), six Silver Medals, and three other prizes, were taken by Resident men, whilst five Silver Medals were won by students not in Residence.

I should add that the students of our year were about equally divided between the Residents and the "outsiders."

The Residence was not injurious in its effects upon our standing as students. On the contrary, we gained distinct advantages in the prosecution of our studies from living in Residence. This is indicated by the statistics I have given. But I have no hesitation in saying that the moral advantages were still greater.

Students living outside of the College are practically under no control. Temptations of all kinds are nearer at hand. Other boarders in the same houses may be engaged in various avocations in the city, or may be unemployed. The tendency is, with those who are not students, to give up their evenings to recreation and amusement. Their influence upon students in their work is not likely to be favourable, especially upon those who are naturally lazy or without force of character. The latter are more exposed, and more likely to yield, to the temptations of the city, when not under the influence of life in Residence. The moderate discipline, the regular hours, the *esprit de corps*, the constant control exercised over conduct and manners, not only by the recognized authorities, but also by the example of the general body of the students, the more bracing atmosphere of work, the association of the students in their studies, the knowledge of methods thereby acquired, the repeated interchange of friendly offices, all these were moral influences for good, which were continually operating, and which in the nature of things placed the Resident students at an advantage over those who boarded outside the College. I have often heard the latter regret that their College course had consisted merely of study and examinations, and, that they had missed the collegiate life which they might have had in Residence. One decided advantage of the University College Residence is the fact, that youths of all religious denominations are brought together in the most intimate friendly intercourse as one common family. I believe that the tendency in this Province towards a union of the various Christian communions has been greatly forwarded by the friendly relations thus brought about.

After seventeen years of opportunity for consideration, since leaving College, I am more than ever convinced of the great value of the Residence. For real educational benefit, intellectual and moral, I would not if it were in my power exchange the benefit I have derived from living in Residence for all the other advantages of the University and College course. Living in Residence does not injure men religiously or morally. Four of my fellow Residents of my own year are honoured ministers of the Gospel. The remainder are engaged in various occupations. None has brought discredit on his *alma mater*. There have been no moral wrecks among them. All are, I firmly believe, better men and better citizens for having lived in the University College Residence.

It will be a great calamity not only to the University and University College but to the Province at large, if anything should be done to impair the Residence.

as an integral part of the College. I sincerely hope that instead of being abolished the Residence may be enlarged, or an additional one constructed, so as to enable a larger number of our young men to share in the advantages of real college life.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES H. COYNE.

WM. ALLAIRE SHORTT, Esq., M.A.,

Counsellor-at-Law.

35 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, October 22nd, 1887.

MY DEAR DR. WILSON.—I am exceedingly sorry that my professional duties should have been so engrossing that three weeks have run by since I received your note asking for "my opinion, based on my experience, of the value of the Residence, moral and intellectual."

My belief is that I feel every day the influence of the four years I was enabled to spend in an atmosphere avowedly scholastic and intellectual. Those years have been the only ones I have ever known in a society where one was never considered a prig for using the best English he could command, or a bore for insisting on the severest logic he knew, or a pedant for broaching a subject a little more recondite than current politics. My experience shews me that Residence afforded the opportunity to apply directly, in daily life, what was being learned at lectures or from books, so as to make it one's own in a way it could never otherwise become; that in that fraternal intercourse with men following every branch of study, one reached a wider and juster view of the world and history than by any other means is possible, and acquired a taste that no intercourse more restricted or less intimate could give.

The alternative of Residence is the private boarding house, and the characteristic of the private boarding house is a society so small as to deprive every member of the opportunities both for universality and specialty—the number being too small to give him companions in all courses or a choice of those in his own.

New York is a place of cosmopolitan interests, and growing into a literary centre; yet my experience here with men trained at Columbia or the University of New York, at neither of which is there a residence, assures me further of the importance of living in a building devoted to learning, and in a society exclusively composed of students.

Even the two or three men in University College Residence in my time who never opened a book and never attended an examination absorbed considerable knowledge, acquired a great respect for it, and received a sort of culture.

I am told that since the abolition of Residence at Lehigh University the undergraduates have taken to living at hotels, with disastrous results, both moral and intellectual. A friend of mine, who designed his son for that University, has decided to send him elsewhere (after a visit to Lehigh).

For my own part, I believe that I am a vastly better companion, friend, and citizen, with a truer sense of myself and my relations and duties to my kind, for the moral discipline of the Residence—the self-imposed discipline of the undergraduate democracy where every member is subject, magistrate, policeman, and legislator, not in turn, but all at once.

The sins of the Residence are more visible and more talked about, but not worse or more numerous than those of the small boarding house, as my experience since leaving it convinces me; on the contrary, they are limited in kind and number by a Residence public opinion, while those of a private house are nobody's business. I never knew a man detected in a dishonourable act to whom life was thereafter tolerable in the Residence; such a man invariably moved to a private boarding house where he was more comfortable.

Trusting that you may succeed in saving the dearest, and perhaps the best thing about the College, and thanking you for your efforts in its behalf,

I am, faithfully yours,

WM. A. SHORTT.

COLIN G. SNIDER, Esq., M.A.

CAYUGA, 28th July, 1887.

DANIEL WILSON, Esq., LL.D., President University College, Toronto:

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., and have been away from home, and so have not answered promptly.

I regret very much the course proposed to be taken in reference to the College Residence. I lived in Residence during my whole undergraduate course, from Autumn 1869 to Spring 1873. I took part actively in all the sports and amusements among the students, and looking back on my experience there, after fourteen years subsequent experience of active business life, I feel that if I had not been in Residence my college life would have been robbed of half its charm, and certainly half its usefulness to me.

I know of no incident during the whole time the occurrence of which I have any cause to regret. I do not know of one single man who contracted a bad habit of any kind owing to his living in Residence. I have boarded in private and public houses, in various town and cities, since I was sixteen years old, and I think the University Residence quite as safe morally as any private boarding house life is. I have a son and hope to have him go through the Arts Course at University College, and I shall certainly send him into Residence if it is continued, because I feel certain his moral welfare is quite as safe there as in any boarding house, indeed I think safer than hunting amusement through the town, plenty of which he finds among his fellow students at home in Residence. Intellectually his chances are far better in Residence in my opinion.

I earnestly hope your influence may be used to preserve the Residence, and that it may be continued.

Yours very truly,

COLIN G. SNIDER.

HON. MR. JUSTICE FALCONBRIDGE, M. A.

18 and 20 King Street West, TORONTO, 27th July, 1887.

DANIEL WILSON, Esq., LL.D., President, University College, Toronto.

MY DEAR PRESIDENT,—On my return to town I am in receipt of your note of the 13th instant. I entertain very strong views on the subject of the proposed abolition of the College Residence. I do not think that any person who had ever been in Residence himself, or who had any University degree, would for a moment entertain the idea of abolishing the Residence. I consider the training to be received there of at least as great value both intellectually and morally as that received in the Lecture Room.

I think that my allegiance to the University and to University College is as strong as that of any graduate, but unless I see great reason to change my mind, if there is no Residence in University College when the time arrives for my children to matriculate, I should certainly send them to Trinity College, Toronto, if I cannot afford to send to Oxford or Cambridge. You are, of course at liberty to make any use of this letter that you think proper.

I remain, my dear Dr. Wilson, yours sincerely,

W. G. FALCONBRIDGE.

TALBOT MACBETH, Esq., M.A.,

Barrister.

LONDON, July 29, 1887.

MY DEAR SIR,—I regret very much the delay in answering your letter of the 13th inst. I have been out of town for the last three weeks, and your letter, arriving during my absence, was unfortunately mislaid, and did not come to my hands until to-day.

With regard to the College Residence, I am utterly at a loss to understand by what arguments any one has been led to believe that it is useless or injurious in its influence on the students. It is my conviction, based on my own experience as an undergraduate and as a graduate, that the Residence is of great value to University College, and that its influence is felt not only by the inmates but by the whole body of students.

The Residence is the centre of all College life and thought and sentiment, a bond of union, as it were, for all classes of students, and a most important factor in promoting friendly intercourse and good-fellowship among them.

Students in Residence have, in my opinion, greater facilities for study than can be obtained elsewhere, and enjoy in a special degree all those intellectual and moral advantages arising from familiar association with their fellows.

I would gladly see the Residence enlarged and improved, believing that such a step would be in the best interest of University College, and I sincerely trust that the Minister may be persuaded to abandon his proposal for its abolition.

Yours, very truly,

TALBOT MACBETH.

DR. WILSON,

President, University College, Toronto.

REV. A. C. HILL, M.A.,

Rector, Episcopal Church, St. Thomas.

290 SIMCOE STREET, TORONTO, August 8th, 1887.

DANIEL WILSON, Esq., LL.D., President University College, Toronto :

DEAR SIR,—I arrived in this city this morning, on my way home after a trip to the Maritime Provinces, and found your favour of July 13th awaiting me, which had been forwarded from St. Thomas. With regard to the proposed abolition of the College Residence, I have already signed a petition against it, and am fully in accord with the views therein expressed. Your ask me to state my opinion, based on my experience, of the value of the Residence, both intellectually and morally. In reply I would state, that I consider the Residence to be of great value, both intellectually and morally to students of the University. It is often of great advantage to students in reading up for lecture or examination to work together. The mutual help afforded in, and the stimulus given by, united work tends to make the acquisition of knowledge easier and more pleasant, and to give to the workers a more intelligent and retentive grasp of the subject studied. The Residence affords opportunities for this reading together which are not to be found in a private boarding house. The objection may be raised that there are idle restless students to be found in Residence, who will interrupt the reading of the studiously inclined. Such characters were indeed to be found in Residence when I was an under-graduate (and I have no doubt that there will be always such found there, and in private boarding houses also) but my experience was that if a man really wanted to read he was not molested. If a man once let it be under-

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stood that he was in earnest about his studies, the idle ones left him in peace, and sought more congenial society. With regard to the moral value of the Residence, there can, I think, be no question. The fact that men must be in the Building at a certain hour at night, and that the Dean exercises supervision over their moral conduct, church attendance, &c., tends certainly to save them from the temptations which beset men in boarding houses, where there is no strict regulation as to hours of admission at night, and where all the inmates of the house are not University students, are not, sometimes, all of them of the sterner sex. Some of the pleasantest associations and brightest memories of my under-graduate course are connected with the Residence, and I trust that it will always form part of my *Alma Mater*.

Yours faithfully,

ARUNDEL C. HILL.

J. H. BOWES, M.A.,

Barrister.

TORONTO, September 15th, 1887.

DEAR DR. WILSON.—In answer to your note regarding Residence, I would say: As to the intellectual influence of Residence upon the student, speaking from my own experience, and from observation of its effects upon others, I believe that it has a marked effect for good. The intimate association of forty men pursuing different courses, but all engaged in University work, tends to broaden the minds of the students and enables them to understand something of studies outside of their own specialty. The emulation also, existing among them is healthful and useful. I might remark that Residence men have an incidental advantage from the proximity of the building to the library, which makes it exceedingly easy for them to make use of its books and reading-room. As to the moral influence (speaking again from my own experience) I cannot believe that it is anything but for the good. The Residence forms a miniature world, and the student there learns to meet with men, and to exercise his judgment and moral force. It has been said by some that Residence men are wild and dissipated. Those who know best do not say so; on the contrary, life in Residence tends to the formation of decided character and determination. There are black sheep in every flock, but the assertion that the ordinary Residence man is a black sheep is most unjust. I might also advert to the great social advantages that Residence possesses, and the *esprit de corps* for which its members have been noted. It may, however, be unnecessary to do so. I will only add that, on the point of leaving Canada, I am sure not only that I will find myself far better equipped for the struggle of life from my Residence training, but also that the recollection of the years that I spent there will always be a bright spot in my life.

Yours respectfully,

J. H. BOWES.

E. H. SMYTHE, ESQ., LL.D.

Barrister, Kingston.

WELLINGTON, August 15th, 1887.

MY DEAR DR. WILSON.

I received yours of the 13th ult., at this place where I am spending a month vacation.

From my own experience I regard the maintenance of the Residence as most important. I believe it affords safe-guards for the moral welfare of the Student, which are not to be found in boarding-houses scattered through the city. I hope before long to have sons of my own at the University, and would much prefer

that they should reside in the College precincts under the supervision of a wise and judicious Dean, such as Prof. Loudon proved to be in my time.

I am strongly in favour of the Residence on another ground. It was an intellectual centre, and afforded a nucleus for the University life which the English system is such a successful exponent of. Even the non-residents participated in the benefit of it. It raised the standard of College culture very measurably. I think its abolition a step in the wrong direction. It should rather be extended. I have had ample opportunities of observing the effect of the non-resident system at Queen's, and in the result I have not been favourably impressed with it.

A Residence under proper discipline ought to be a sure guarantee to parents that their sons keep proper hours, and have such restraints placed upon them as young men need away from home.

In fine, I am an enthusiastic supporter of the "College Residence."

I am, my dear Dr. Wilson,

Your obedient servant,

E. H. SMYTHE.

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